

The VA will do that. We will give them the tools to do that. It will simplify it and cut the redtape.

Veterans Choice funding is a fix to allow the private sector to fill in the gaps where the VA can't provide healthcare. It will help recruit and retain more doctors and nurses, critically important, and it expands the capacity in the VA, which is critically important.

Then there is the "Forever" GI bill which eliminates the 15-year limit. It breaks down educational barriers and helps veterans transition into civilian life.

We have done some good work. We have done some good work for this body. We have done some good work, more importantly, for the veterans, and we need to continue on that line as we continue to address healthcare and we continue to address important issues like tax reform. It is about working together. It is about finding common ground. It is about taking everybody's opinion into context and then drafting up bills.

Chairman ISAKSON and I have done that, and we are going to continue to do that. We have some more tough issues to deal with over the next year and a half, but we are going to work together to make sure we do it and we do it right. With help from the committee and help from the Senate, we could have more successes.

I thank the chairman of the committee and thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, we are considering the nomination of Dan Brouillette to be the Deputy Secretary for the Department of Energy. Mr. Brouillette has a long history of distinguished service to our Nation. He is a veteran. He has served in the Department of Energy. He has been the staff director for the House Energy and Commerce Committee. More recently, he has held high-level posts in the private sector—first, as vice president at Ford, currently as senior vice president at USAA.

He has strong experience and thorough knowledge of the Department he has chosen to return to. He understands the work that its thousands of scientists undertake and the importance of maximizing their research efforts, especially in a time of constrained Federal budgets.

He recognizes the importance of our 17 National Labs and the Department's responsibility for environmental management, including the cleanup of Cold War-era legacy sites. As second in command to Secretary Perry, Mr. Brouillette will oversee programs critical to our Nation's cyber security, energy innovation, and scientific discovery.

Based on his hearings before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I am confident he is up for the challenge and ready for this role. I

would urge all of my colleagues to support the nomination of Dan Brouillette to be the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy.

Mr. President, I yield all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Brouillette nomination?

Mr. RUBIO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 79, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 186 Ex.]

YEAS—79

Alexander	Feinstein	Paul
Baldwin	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Flake	Peters
Bennet	Gardner	Portman
Blumenthal	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hassan	Rounds
Brown	Hatch	Rubio
Cantwell	Heinrich	Sasse
Capito	Heitkamp	Schumer
Cardin	Isakson	Scott
Carper	Johnson	Shaheen
Casey	Kaine	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Stabenow
Cochran	King	Strange
Collins	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Coons	Lankford	Tester
Corker	Leahy	Thune
Cornyn	Lee	Tillis
Cotton	Manchin	Toomey
Crapo	McCaskill	Udall
Cruz	McConnell	Warner
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Donnelly	Murkowski	Wyden
Durbin	Murphy	Young
Enzi	Murray	
Ernst	Nelson	

NAYS—17

Booker	Heller	Sanders
Cortez Masto	Hirono	Schatz
Duckworth	Markey	Van Hollen
Franken	Menendez	Warren
Gillibrand	Merkley	Whitehouse
Harris	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Burr	Inhofe
Hoeven	McCain

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FDA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2430.

All postcloture time is expired.

The motion to proceed is agreed to.

FDA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2430) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs, medical devices, generic drugs, and biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will be 10 minutes of debate equally divided.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I thank Senator MURRAY and the committee for 2 years of work to produce a bipartisan result. This bill funds the Food and Drug Administration and advances the 21st Century Cures legislation that Senator MCCONNELL called the most important bill of the last Congress. Senator MURRAY and I have already spoken to the bill and have thanked everybody involved. Senators have other appointments they would like to keep.

I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 1, as follows: